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Columbia MO 65201

July 20, 1997

National Toxicology Program  
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services  
Public Health Service  
PO Box 12233  
Research Triangle Park NC 27709

Re: Saccharin public comment.

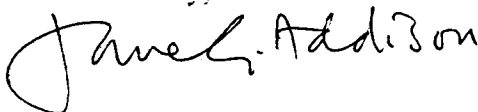
Dear Sirs/Madams:

I have used saccharin for about 30 years now, to sweeten coffee and tea. My present source is Featherweight Sugar Substitute, 1/4 grain saccharin tablets, dist. by Sandoz, 1 tablet = 12.3 mg. saccharin. or 16.2 mg. sodium saccharin. As a child, I grew up in World War II, in England. Owing to rationing of staples, my family always used saccharin to sweeten tea and coffee. I have never heard of any reports of increased cancer owing to saccharin use in wartime Britain.

I find that saccharin has a better taste than other sweeteners, and it used to be very inexpensive. It is, at present, very difficult to find any at all to purchase in the United States.. So I would really appreciate it being more easily available. On vacation last summer in Austria, I purchased some, easily visible, in a grocery store.

I urge you to check with European authorities, and reconsider the American restrictions on saccharin.

Yours sincerely,



Jane G. Addison

**Government reviewing  
saccharin's cancer status**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government regulators are considering whether to remove the artificial sweetener saccharin from the nation's list of cancer-causing substances.

Studies of saccharin found the compound could cause bladder cancer in rats. The Food and Drug Administration attempted to ban the sweetener in 1977. But Congress allowed saccharin's continued sale, under certain conditions, as long as it bore a warning label detailing the potential risk.

Later studies of human saccharin users found no evidence of increased bladder cancer, and some researchers now believe that a compound found in rats, not humans, may be the explanation.

The National Toxicology Program, a branch of the National Institutes of Health, will consider that question. If it removes saccharin from the list of "anticipated human carcinogens," the FDA would review its own restrictions on the sweetener.

The NTP, which announced its review on Friday, will accept public comment on saccharin's status for 45 days. It announced no deadline for its decision.